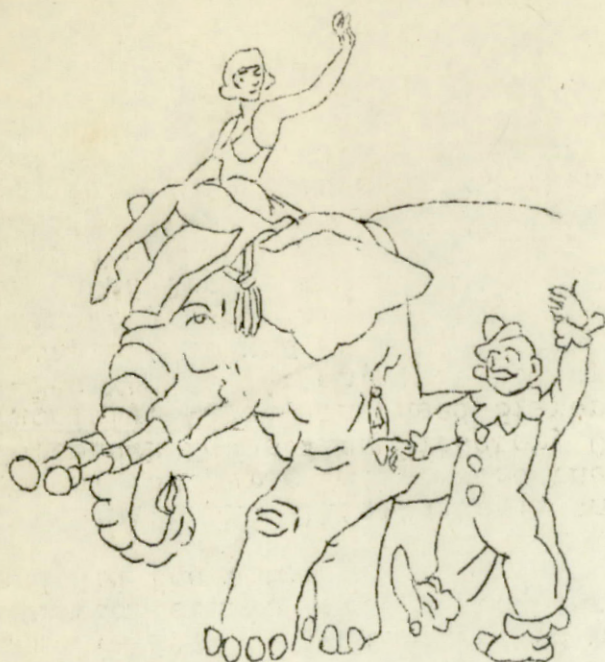


August 15th, 1945.



THE BANDWAGON

The Official
Publication of the

CIRCUS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Vol. 4

No. 4

LIFE OF CHARLES GERLACH - Old Circus Bandmaster
as related to
CHS Joseph Tracy

I have often been asked how long did you serve in the circus world? To this I can only say, I did not start in the circus business, but in the dramatic and variety business before I left home. These two theatres were where I got my first experience in the amusement world. I then left my home between the age of 15 and 16 with a cornet under one arm, and a fiddle under the other. Some band music in one pocket and orchestra music in the other, no trunk, not even the old gray canvas grip. No money and all I had was courage and a stiff back.

My first engagement was with Harry Howard and his dramatic company. This is the same Harry Howard who in years after, became well known in Keith time vaudeville with his dogs and ponies. I left this company and joined the famous Elliotts who were brought over to this country by the Barnum Circus and were the feature there for two seasons.

After spending two seasons with the Forepaugh Shows, - the Elliotts, W.C. Coupe and Robinson (famous Bareback Rider) organized a show and went to Mexico which was a failure from the wreck of this show. The Elliotts took some vaudeville performers and started their own show playing one night and week stands through the country. W. C. Coupe took his trained horses and did the same.

I was with the Elliotts until the spring of 1891, then joined the 4-Paw Shows. Cooper & Bailey were the proprietors, Joe McCaddon, Manager, Adam Forepaugh Equestrian Director, Col. Boon and his lions, the Hanlon Troupe (Aerial), Zazel, the Reed Sisters (riders) also James B. Mack, the famous 4-Paw Yankee farmer, imitated by many with other shows but without any success. It was at this season that one of the Hanlon's fell and met instant death, this was also the season that the 4-Paw Shows and Sells-Brothers Circus had the greatest and hardest bill posting fight ever to take place with any show. Also the last season of the Lake Front lot in Chicago to be used as a circus lot. Both shows were closed and did not go out for several seasons and then they were combined into the Adam Forepaugh and Sells Bros., Combined Shows. It was with this show that Spader Johnson, produced his famous clown band, others tried to form such a band but failed. There was but one clown band and that was Spader Johnson's. The 4-Paw season of 1891 closed at Danville, Va., November 7th of that year.

I then had several variety theatres in the middle west until the Spring of 1893, then joined the Barnum & Bailey Shows and stayed there a second season of 1894.

Life of Charles Gerlach
(continued)

The next five seasons were spent with dramatic shows. Seasons of 1899 and 1900 with the Welch Bros., Shows, then a two car show. Again I went back to dramatic shows in 1901-02. Season of 1903 back with Welch Bros., Shows. (It was at this time the photo of the big show and clown bands were taken outside of dressing tent. Photo enclosed with this issue of the Bandwagon to members).

This season they had a 12 or 14 car show, also this season after pulling into Winter Quarters they caught fire and were burned up. At the close of this season I again went back with a dramatic Company and stayed there until the close of their season April 2nd, 1904, then came home and joined Mr. Washburn's No. 1 Company here in Buffalo and stayed with the company until October 11th and was sent to his No. 3 Company - called the California Company, and stayed there until the close of the season, May 20th, 1905.

Then I went out with Mr. Washburn's Dog and Pony Shows known as the Washburn and D'Alma Show, stayed there until I again was back to the No. 3 company and closed the season in 1906.

I then came home and joined the Cummings Wild West Show (Cummings & Maine). But this show was not to my liking as the Indians and Cowboys were too wild. So I left and joined one of the B.C. Whitney's Co., out of Detroit, December 1906. I was musical Director at the Burtio Opera House and Auditorium Theatres in Auburn, N.Y. Stayed there until close of Season March 11th, 1907. From there I went down to Macon, Ga., and joined the Sun Bros., Shows and stayed with them for four seasons. That was a 10 car show and the neatest, cleanest and best show of its size on the road.

The season of 1911 found me with the John Robinson 10 Big Shows. Season closed at Albany, Miss. - November 16th, 1911. This was my last season with any circus also the last season of this show under the management of the Robinsons. I then went back to dramatic shows, seasons of 1912 and stayed through until 1924, when I retired.

This was my last season in any branch of the show business. I covered everything from Tom Shows to Circus, always led the best bands and orchestras, sometimes large and sometimes small but always good, at least the people said so and I thought so too. Always received fine write-ups in the press and amusement papers. Had legions of friends in all branches of the Amusement World and I only wish we could meet just once more for a pleasant chat, and now to all my friends "Best Wishes and Good-Bye", -- Charles Gerlach.

- - - - -

Let us hope that some of Mr. Gerlach's old friends will read this article and that he will hear from some of them. May we suggest that you write the Editors of the Bandwagon, and we shall be glad to put you in touch with this old ex-trouper.

The photo enclosed with this issue is, as we said above, through the kindness of Mr. Gerlach and through the untiring efforts of our Member Joseph Tracey. Our thanks goes to both of these gentlemen for the time spent in preparing this article, and we trust as the time goes along, we shall hear more from this old circus bandmaster of the past.

We give you below the names of those persons appearing in the enclosed photo - BIG TOP AND THE CLOWN BAND - WELCH BROS. CIRCUS - SEASON 1903
This photo was taken back of dressing top.

Big Top Band from left to right: Charles Gerlach, John Kutz, Krick, Waldo, Jacobey, Eugene Cirth, Fred Barney, Herbert Swift, Gaskius, Mrs. Valltine, Geo. Vogel, Col. Welsh, Chas Woodcomb, Geo. Taft, Tubs, and Klutz.

Clown Band from left to right: Geo. Colby, Garry Vanderbilt, Clarke, Macke, Pogie O'Brine, Hanley and McGatey.

- - - - -

REMINISCENCE OF P.T. BARNUM'S LUCK AND ILL-FORTUNES.

By Sgt. Hugo Zeiter - Courtesy of Robt. Sams CHS

On the night of December 24, 1872, Phineus Taylor Barnum's winter quarters, then located on 14th street in New York City, was totally destroyed by fire. In those days, news items were seldom splurged on the front pages in big headlines. On the fourth and last page of the Bridgeport Daily Standard, the entire account of the fire rated less than two inches of a single column. It was written up as follows:

New York 12/24 - - - - - 10:40 A.M.

"Barnum's Museum and Circus was discovered to be on fire about 4 o'clock this morning, and was totally destroyed, together with Grace Chapel adjoining, two stores on 14th Street, and Stevens Carriage Shop on 13th Street. The only animals saved from the menagerie are the camel and elephant. The cause of the fire is unknown."

The loss of this fire was estimated at \$300,000. Previous to this, Barnum experienced a similar loss when his American Museum located at Broadway and Ann Street in New York City burned on July 13, 1865 at an estimated loss of \$400,000. His famous oriental ville home: "Iranistan" in Fairfield, Conn., (now Bridgeport) was similarly destroyed on December 18, 1857 at a loss of an estimated \$150,000.

After these three catastrophies, Barnum established a new museum near Broom Street in New York City. This institution was consumed by fire on March 3, 1886 at a loss of approximately \$288,000. The following year on November 20, 1887, the circus winter quarters in Bridgeport was demolished.

For the fifth time, over a period of thirty years, fire consumed Barnum's fortune and after each loss, he rebuilt a bigger and better enterprise. In all cases Barnum's losses were partially covered by insurance.

After his last big fire in Bridgeport, Barnum made a public announcement that his circus would go out in the spring bigger and better than ever before. The quarters burned on Sunday night November 20, 1887, and the following day, together with an account of the fire, the following dispatch appeared in the Bridgeport paper: "Just as the Standard goes to press, Mr. Barnum telegraphed from New York that he has today engaged 20 clowns for next season's show."

At the time of his death, Barnum was a man of great wealth, and Bridgeport's greatest philanthropist. Today the city can be proud of the many lasting monuments to his memory. Seaside park which he donated to the city also forms a beautiful setting for his monument overlooking Long Island Sound. Approximately two blocks removed, is his once famous home: "Marina" now used as a red cross headquarters. It is understood that this ornate mansion with its elaborately hand-carved front door will be converted into an educational institution after the war.

Barnum's museum, also a gift to the city, houses the Barnum Institute of Science and History. This is a brown stone building at the corner of Main and Gilbert Street and is a typical illustration of the semi-oriental type of architecture which Barnum used extensively. The first two floors of this building are now used by the Board of Education.

The Henry A Bishop Historical Room at the Bridgeport Public Library contains most of the books formerly in Barnum's private library. Mrs. C.D. Pierce who is in charge is busily engaged in collecting many of the original lithographs, posters, hand bills, programs, route cards, and historical items pertaining to the Barnum and Bailey Circus which has brought fame and fortune to Bridgeport's one-time best loved citizen. Barnum is buried in Mountain Grove Cemetery near the grave of Charles Sherwood Stratton, better known as General Tom Thumb with whom he rose to the height of success and wealth. Today a street in Bridgeport bears the name of Tom Thumb and there is also a main thoroughfare, called Barnum Avenue. The city has yet to honour Barnum's business partner: Bailey who was largely responsible for the financial success of the circus enterprise which left the city when Ringling's moved the quarters to Sarasota, Florida in 1927.

Reminiscence of P.T. Barnum's Luck and Ill-fortunescont'd.

To the city of Bridgeport, Barnum was a great citizen; to the world, the Prince of Humbug; and to all the circus fans of America and Europe, the greatest individual showman of all time.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS - PERMANENT

- No..... 115 Miss Thalei Dechert, Box 2097, Baltimore 3, Md.
New Address - Box 2345, Customs House Station, New Orleans, 16, La.
- No..... 133 Mr. Robert J. Devenney, Newport, Delaware
New Address - Augustine & Christian Sts., Newport, Delaware.
- No..... 39 Mr. C.E. Duble, 126½ W. Chestnut, Jeffersonville, Ind.
New Address - 227 Spring St., Jeffersonville, Ind.
- No..... 95 Mr. Wm. H. Walton, 107 E. 10th Ave., Homestead, Pa.
New Address - 648 Doyle Ave., West Homestead, Pa.
- No..... 85 Mr. J.A. Havirland, 1551 East 65th St., Chicago 37, Ill.
New Address - 8818 Dante Avenue, Chicago 19, Ill.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS - TEMPORARY - GOOD TILL FURTHER NOTICE

- No..... 49 Mr. G.B. Hubler, 223 Superior Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.
Temp. Address - Flt/O G.B. Hubler T130553, Box 97, Cl. 615,
Sq. H4, Hendricks Field, Sebring, Florida.
- No..... 133 Mr. Robert J. Devenney, Newport, Delaware.
Temp. Address - Cpl. Robert J. Devenney, ASN 32488168,
560th Air Service Group, Shaw Field, S. Carolina.
- No..... 142 Mr. George E. Morrissey, 4707 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, DC.
Temp. Address - Pvt. Geo. E. Morrissey, ASN 13140522, Sqdn R,
Bks. 586, 3502 AAF Base Unit, Chanute Field, Ill.

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE REMOVE FROM MEMBERSHIP LIST THE FOLLOWING.

- No..... 12 Mr. Jim Chloupek, 1069 Morse St., San Jose 11, California.
Deceased
- No..... 113 Mr. James W. Kelley, Clintonville Rd., Clintonville, Conn.
Resigned

PLEASE ADD THESE NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP LIST

- No..... 211 Mr. Roland Weber, 1906 No. Kostner Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
Models, incl. tents
- No..... 212 Mrs. Sophronia Larson, 250 Fulton Place, Canton, Ill.
GC; M.
- No..... 213 Mr. Charles Higgins, 199 Cedar St., New Bedford, Mass.
GC; R; Pr; Bks; Ph.
- No..... 214 Mr. John E. Clark, 28 Woodstock Ave., Rutland, Vt.
GC; Ph.
- No..... 215 Mr. Boyd J. McWhorter, Moorefield, W. Va.
Models, Ph.
- No..... 216 Mr. Eddie Zaboy, 514 N. 7th St., Allentown, Pa.
Ph.
- No..... 217 Mr. William H. Owens, 435 Turner, Allentown, Pa.
Ph.
- No..... 218 Mr. Frank M. Bullock, 9 New Jersey Ave., Garden City, Chester, Pa.
GC.
- No..... 219 Mr. Marvin Gauger, 134 West Lincoln Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.
Ph; M.
- No..... 220 Mr. Jack Price Robinson, 220 N. Moffet, Joplin, Mo.
Ph.

"CLOWN RAMBLING"

Sung by Bob Sherwood, one of the last of Barnum's Clowns

.....

Where can a man buy a Cap for his knee?	of his house, the nails on the end of his toes?
Or a key to the lock of his hair?	Can the crook of his elbow be sent to jail?
Can his eyes be called an academy	If so, what did he do?
Because there are pupils there?	How does he sharpen his shoulder blades?
In the crown of his head	I'll be hanged if I know, do you?
What gems are found?	Can he sit in the shade of the palm of
Who travels the bridge of his nose?	Or beat on the drum of his ear? his hand?
Can he use, when shingling the roof	Does the calf of his leg eat the corn
	on his toes? If so, why not grow corn
	on the ear? <u>CHS</u> John J. Crowley

WALTER L. MAIN CIRCUS

SEASON OF 1893

Courtesy of A. Morton Smith CHS

(Daily Nut \$1,250. figures after dates are daily box office takes)

APRIL

- 22 Geneva, O. \$1,249. cold rain
24 Youngstown, O. \$1,903.
25 Beaver Falls, Pa. \$1,370.
26 Homestead, Pa. \$1,060. rain
27 McKeesport, Pa. \$1,425.
28 Connellsville, Pa. \$1,369
29 Uniontown, Pa. \$1,156. rain

MAY

- 1 East Liberty, Pa. \$1,370. rain
2 Washington, Pa. \$1,039.
3 Braddock, Pa. no show
4 Jeanette, Pa. \$1,044. one show
5 Mt. Pleasant, Pa. \$1,099. rain
6 Latrobe, Pa. \$1,513. one show
8 Johnstown, Pa. \$2,404.
9 Indiana, Pa. \$830.
10 Apollo, Pa. \$1,694.
11 Tarentum, Pa. \$1,278.
12 Sharpsburg, Pa. \$1,214.
13 Butler, Pa., \$1,207. rain.
15 Painesville, O. \$1,771. rain
16 Conneaut, Ohio \$291. stormy
17 Ashtabula, O. \$179. stormy
18 Ashtabula, O. \$1,292
19 Franklin, Pa. \$1,022.
20 Kittanning, Pa., \$1,090. rain
22 Dubois, Pa. \$2,112.
23 Punxsutawney, Pa. \$1,764. rain
24 Johnsonburg, Pa. \$1,078.
25 Emporium, Pa. \$1,326
26 Lock Haven, Pa. \$1,393.
27 Bellefonte, Pa. \$1,500. rain

- 29 Houtzdale, Pa. \$1,574
30 Wrecked en route, show remained in Tyrone, Pa.

JUNE

- 8 Tyrone, Pa. \$1,308.
9 Altoona, Pa. \$747.
10 Altoona, Pa. \$1,810.
12 Lewiston, Pa. \$1,170.
13 Harrisburg, Pa. \$1,027.
14 Lykens, Pa. \$930.
15 Sunbury, Pa. \$596.
16 Mt. Carmel, Pa. \$1,226.
17 Ashland, Pa. \$879.
19 Shenandoah, Pa. \$1,389.
20 Mahanoy City, Pa. \$961.
21 Hazelton, Pa. \$1,472
22 Freeland, Pa. \$1,258
23 Mauch Chunk, Pa. \$1,218.
24 Pittston, Pa. \$1,282.
26 Towanda, Pa. \$849. rain
27 Ithaca, N.Y. \$1,364.
28 Geneva, N.Y. \$740.
29 Lyons, N.Y. \$1,322.
30 Seneca Falls, N.Y. \$1,255.

JULY

- 1 Syracuse, N.Y. \$912.

JULY

- 3 Oneida, N.Y. \$969. rain
4 Rome, N.Y. \$1,368.
5 Herkimer, N.Y. \$1,449. rain
6 Little Falls, N.Y. \$1,429.
7 Fort Plains, N.Y. \$1,651.
8 Cohoes, N.Y. \$894. rain
10 Mattewan, N.Y. \$1,155
11 Peekskill, N.Y. \$946.
12 Sing Sing, N.Y. \$878.
13 Tarrytown, N.Y. \$897
14 Yonkers, N.Y. \$1,396.
15 White Plains, N.Y. \$1,713.
17 Flushing, L.I. \$1,377.
18 Hampstead, L.I. \$1,357.
19 Glen Cove, L.I. \$1,435.
20 Pt. Jefferson, L.I. \$951.
21 Huntington, L.I. \$1,208.
22 Green Point, L.I. \$1,447.
23
24 River Head, L.I. \$1,421.
25 Sag Harbor, L.I. \$1,462.
26 Patchogue, L.I. \$1,144.
27 Babylon, L.I. \$1,635.
28 Far Rockaway, L.I. \$1,921.
29 Long Island City, \$823, rain

- 31 Mt. Vernon, N.Y. \$2,042.

AUGUST

- 1 Port Chester, N.Y. \$1,629.
2 Stamford, Conn. \$1,836.
3 Norwalk, Conn. \$1,210.
4 Birmingham, Conn. \$1,248.
5 Meriden, Conn. \$1,401.
7 Holyoke, Conn. \$3,406.
8 Westfield, Mass. \$1,616.
9 New Britain, Conn. \$771.
10 Rockville, Conn. \$1,305.
11 Norwich, Conn. \$1,112.
12 Providence, R.I. \$775.
14 New Bedford, Mass. \$2,254.
15 Taunton, Mass. \$587.
16 Woonsocket, R.I. \$945.
17 Pawtucket, R.I. \$1,013.
18 Phoenix, R.I. \$886.
19 Westerly, R.I. \$1,692.
21 Newport, R.I. \$1,065.
22 Fall River, Mass. \$961.
23 Brockton, Mass. \$1,014.
24 Plymouth, Mass. \$757. rain
25 Quincy, Mass. \$1,578.
26 Hyde Park, Mass. \$970.

- 28 Lowell, Mass. \$1,381.
29 Lawrence, Mass. \$660. rain
30 Malden, Mass. \$1,390.
31 Charlestown, Mass. \$958.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Cambridge, Mass. \$923.
2 Waltham, Mass. \$868.
4 Marlboro, Mass. \$1,219.

Walter L. Main Shows - (concluded)

SEPTEMBER

6 Worcester, Mass. \$689.
 7 Southbridge, Mass. \$651.
 8 Hartford, Conn. \$651, late
 9 Winsted, Conn. \$1,378.
 10
 11 Great Barrington, Mass. \$1,505.
 12 New Milford, Conn. \$1,342
 13 Nangatuck, Conn. \$1,027.
 14 Greenwich, Conn. \$1,174.
 15 New Rochelle, N.Y. \$707.
 16 West Chester, N.Y. \$999.

18 Hoboken, N.J. \$1198.
 19 Somerville, N.J. \$1468.
 20 Bethlehem, Pa. \$714.
 21 Easton, Pa. \$949.
 22 Morristown, Pa. \$1794.
 23 Dover, N.J. \$1383. rain
 25 Newton, N.J. \$1394 rain
 26 Stroudsburg, Pa. \$2389
 27 Scranton, Pa. \$898

28 Walton, N.Y. \$1,456.
 29 Sidney, N.Y. \$602.
 30 Cobbleskill, N.Y. \$1,490.

OCTOBER

2 Oneonta, N.Y. \$775.
 3 Carbondale, Pa. \$1,444.
 4 Nanticoke, Pa. \$1,022. rain
 5 Milton, Pa. \$1,114.
 6 Renovo, Pa. \$1,307.
 7 Ridgeway, Pa. \$1,721.
 9 Kane, Pa. \$1,467.
 10 Warren, Pa. \$1,541.
 11 Titusville, Pa. \$1,171.
 12 Stoneboro, Pa. \$900.
 13 Andover, Ohio \$1,144.
 14 Conneaut, O. No show, rain

SHIPPED TO WINTER QUARTERS
 GENEVA, OHIO.

CIRCUS COVERAGE OF U.S. IN 1935

By Van Matre CHS

AL G. BARNES covered 14 states making 167 stops with 4 in Arizona, 54 in Cal., 7 in Col; 4 in Idaho; 11 in Mich; 8 in Mont. 1 in Neb; 4 in New Mexico; 3 in N. Dakota; 5 in Oregon; 1 in Utah; 7 in Wash; 2 in Wis; 3 in Wyoming; and 53 in Canada.

COLE BROS. covered 23 states making 156 stops with 2 in Ala; 7 in Ark; 9 in Georgia; 5 in Ill; 5 in Ind; 6 in Iowa, 3 in Kan; 3 in Kent; 1 in Md; 11 in Mich; 5 in Miss; 2 in Missouri; 1 in Neb; 16 in N.Y; 17 in N. Carolina, 14 in Ohio, 5 in Oklahoma, 10 in Pa; 5 in S. Carolina, 1 in Tenn; 2 in Vt; 6 in Virginia; 7 in W. Virginia; and 13 in Canada.

DOWNIE BROS. covered 17 states making 173 stops with 6 in Ala; 1 in Conn; 10 in Fla; 19 in Ga; 4 in Kent; 16 in Maine, 14 in Mass; 6 in N.H; 13 in N.Y; 19 in N.C.; 13 in Ohio, 22 in Pa; 1 in R.I.; 12 in S.C.; 8 in Tenn.; 4 in Vt; and 5 in West Virginia.

HAGENBECK & WALLACE

covered 20 states making 148 stops with 6 in Conn; 9 in Ill; 1 in Ind; 9 in Iowa, 6 in Kan; 6 in Kent; 2 in Md; 8 in Mass; 1 in Minnesota; 1 in Neb; 3 in N.H.; 7 in N.J. 17 in N.Y; 8 in Ohio; 1 in Oklahoma; 19 in Pa; 1 in S. Dak; 30 in Texas; 6 in W. Va; and 7 in Wisconsin.

LEWIS BROS. covered 4 states making 124 stops with 11 in Ill; 21 in Ind; 34 in Mich; and 58 in Ohio.

TOM MIX covered 19 states making 214 stops with 55 in Cal; 15 in Col; 1 in Idaho; 4 in Ill; 6 in Ind; 7 in Iowa; 11 in Kan; 1 in Kent; 14 in Mich; 5 in Mo; 9 in Mont; 11 in Neb; 1 in N.Mex; 11 in Ohio, 25 in Okl; 11 in Oregon, 20 in Wash; 1 in W.Va; and 6 in Wyoming.

R.B.B.B. covered 30 states making 131 stops with 3 in Ala; 6 in Conn; 1 in Del; 2 in Fla; 4 in Ga; 5 in Ill; 6 in Ind; 3 in Iowa, 2 in Kan; 1 in Kent; 5 in La; 3 in Maine, 1 in Md; 8 in Mass; 5 in Mich; 5 in Mo; 1 in N.H. 4 in N.J. 11 in N.Y. 3 in N.C. 6 in Ohio, 6 in Okl; 9 in Pa; 1 in R.I. 2 in S.C. 6 in Tenn; 10 Tex; 4 in Va; 1 in W.Va; and 7 in Wisconsin.

RUSSELL BROS. covered 14 states making 153 stops with 12 in Ark; 23 in Ill; 12 in Ind; 15 in Iowa, 14 in Kan; 12 in Minn; 8 in Mo; 2 in Neb; 19 in Ohio, 11 in Okl; 5 in S.Dak; 2 in Tex; 3 in W.Va; and 15 in Wisconsin.

SEAL BROS. covered 9 states making 194 stops with 39 in Kan; 15 in Mo; 28 in Mont; 26 in Neb; 3 in N.Dak; 7 in Okl; 21 in S.Dak; 40 in Tex; and 15 in Wyoming.

SELLS & STERLING

covered 9 states making 185 stops with 1 in Ala; 15 in Ark; 27 in Ill; 13 in Ind; 7 in Kent; 6 in Mich; 13 in Mo; 30 in

CIRCUS COVERAGE of U.S. in 1935 (Cont'd)
Tenn; and 73 in Wisconsin. Every state was visited by some CIRCUS in 1935 except NEVADA. Only 1 CIRCUS paid a visit to the state of Del. and they only made 1 stop in the state which was at Wilmington. This CIRCUS was R.B.B.B. AL G. BARNES was the only CIRCUS to visit the state of Utah and they made but 1 stop in the state. Seven of the 10 CIRCUSES stopped in the state of Ohio and between them played to 129 Ohio towns. Only 2 of the 10 CIRCUSES went to Canada.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

CHS Edwin Wendler wants to know if the Two Hemispheres Bandwagon was used by R.B.B.B. circus in the last years of their parades, in 1919 and 1920. Who can supply this information?

CHS Joe Tracey saw Cole Bros., Circus in Niagara Falls, N.Y. and reports lots of rain, but lots of money around for the circus.

CHS Ray Friesel saw the Clyde Beatty Circus in Greensburg, Pa., (where the show had the blowdown referred to in the June Bandwagon), and also had a great time at the Tom Pack Thrill Circus which played a week in Pittsburgh, drawing 85,000 paid admissions. Ray reports a very fine performance with outstanding acts from start to finish. Ray also is an amateur clown of some repute, and has been performing in several shows playing around his home city, and reports he has some bookings in the Fall.

CHS Cliff Cowen writes that when Dailey Bros., circus showed Oshkosh, Wis., for two days, July 5th and 6th, he and John Heidl clowning for all four performances, and had a nice time with the circus clowns, Billie Burke, Albert White, Jack Kennedy, Joe Lewis and Bill Bailey. Burke and White were guests at the Lions Club luncheon in Oshkosh, and answered questions on clowning. Cliff says that he is quite sure that this very nice gesture on the part of these men gave the circus game a big boost in Oshkosh. The Heidl's entertained at the home of John's sister, Beatrice.

When Cole Bros., Circus was in Elmira, N.Y., F.M. Farrell visited and had a nice chat with CHS Bill Woodcock and Mrs. Woodcock. Looked at a lot of Bill's photos, and also met CHS Paul E. Mason who also was on the lot.

"Crazy Ray" Choisser, CHS of Pinckneyville, Ill., oldtime calliope player writes that recently CHS Delmar Brewer dropped in for a visit, and the two of them had a fine time looking over each others circus photos, and discussing the circus.

New Member Doyd McWhorter writes that he found the item "Trouping with the old Shows" in the July historical note sheet, of great interest and notes as follows "I have often heard my parents and uncles talk about some of the shows mentioned in Trouping with the Old Shows. It seems to me they said the Van Amburg Show when they saw it was called "Van Amburgs Golden Menagerie" and the first show I ever saw in my life as a very small boy was CROWLEYS CIRCUS, a small wagon show. I have never heard of it since. A couple of other shows which were here some years ago and which I have never heard of any more are Kit Carsons Wild West Show, a railroad show of 14 or 15 cars, I think, but possibly more. A very good show and good equipment--(Ed. Note-- see Feb. 1944 issue of the Bandwagon, for an account of this show). Sun Bros. Circus also a railroad show was here during the teens some time two or three different seasons".

CHS John Crowley, that peregrinating circus fan from Cambridge, Mass., recently made a 310 mile round trip by train to Pittsfield, Mass., to catch Clyde Beatty Circus. He also went to Springfield, for a visit with CHS Chas. Davitt.

The Editors have been contacted regarding a forthcoming book on the collecting Hobby -- in which it is desired to list privately owned collections which the public may visit either free, or for a small fee. If the collections of circusiiana or any of the CHS members fall into this category, please write to the Secretary, and give particulars, so that this information may be relayed to the author of this new book for inclusion therein.

CHS Bob Collins writes that he spent four days with the Ringling-Barnum Circus, beginning with the 18th of July at Rochester N.Y. and thence on to Niagara Falls, N.Y. He notes that in Rochester, Wednesday first show was

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG (Cont'd)

lost because of rain, but the folks stood in an awful downpour to buy tickets--no umbrellas, but just blankets etc., over their heads.

With reference to a note in the June Bandwagon regarding the forthcoming book on clowns, by Mr. Stan Bult, of England the following additional information is at hand. Mr. Bult writes "In the book is a main section "The Clown Cyclopedia" which is something never before attempted. Already I have about 550 references to clowns of all times, all countries and all styles of work. I will admit that in some cases little more than the names are handed down, from lack of a permanent record as I am now attempting; and I am therefore particularly grateful to all who can provide data concerning the old-time clowns. On the other hand, many are dealt with at length and this section alone makes intensely interesting reading".

We know that a number of CHS members are clowns, at least in spare time, and they may write to Mr. Bult at 26 Canning Road, East Croyden, Surrey, England for a questionnaire, or if they will write to the Secretary of CHS information will be given. This is the first comprehensive work on clowns so far as we are aware, and is being written by a man who has made a very exhaustive study of this branch of the circus.

Week of July 8 to 14th, CHS Member Richard C. Ellsworth of Canton, N.Y. had on display in a large downtown store, his Ricardo's Circus, one of the most complete model circuses in existence. Each year Mr. Ellsworth has this miniature circus on exhibition for the benefit of the local chapter of the Red Cross, and large crowds are entertained by this small scale circus, which comprises six tents and 59 wagons each one complete to exact scale.

F.M. Farrell, contributing member of CHS has again succumbed to the Lure of the Big Top, and is at present touring with the Clyde Beatty Circus.

While in Chicago, on vacation, CHS Don Smith was entertained by Dr. Conley CHS and reports he had a very fine visit with the Doctor, who presented him with some rare historical items of circus interest. Together with Walter Pietschmann, Don also visited Cleveland, Ohio., during the stand of the R-B circus there, and they had a fine time visiting their many friends on the show, and taking many photos.

As we prepare the Bandwagon for press - news has just reached us that CHS Charter Member Art Stensvad is the proud father of a baby girl, born Friday July 27th -- and the next Dailey Bros., Circus arrived in North Platte, Neb. and Art was quite busy for awhile. He writes "First they had trouble with the railroad in obtaining the lots. I had to spend 4 days, locating a lot for them, and then the Advance came in. I spent a day with them, and settled down for a day, then was busy with the 24-hour man, who arrived 2 days ahead of the show."

CHS Phil Gardner also wrote a nice report on the Dailey Bros., Circus when it played in his home town Broken Bow, Nebr. He reported capacity houses, despite rain. Phil also visited with some members of the show and took several photos.

CHS Bill Green called our attention to the notices that have appeared in the press relative to erecting a headstone for the grave of one of six unidentified victims of the 1944 R-B Fire in Hartford. They refer of course to the grave of the little six year old girl known as "Little Miss Number 1565". Any members desiring to make a donation should contact Detectives Thomas C. Larber and Edward T. Lowe, of City Police Department, Hartford, Conn.

In a letter received from the Billboard Office in Chicago, Ill., it states that owing to the shortage of newsprint, it was necessary to pass up much live news, features and regular departments.

CHS Thelei Dechert is now one of the feature dancers at the Old Opera House Bar and Lounge in New Orleans. Members will recall that this member some months ago was fortunate in getting information as to her early childhood days with the circus, through efforts of CHS members.

THE AUCTION BLOCK

Send in your bids on the following to the Secretary, John E. Lyon, 210 Waterloo Ave., Guelph, Ont., Canada. Do not send any cash with your bids. You will be advised if this is necessary if you are the successful bidder. All bids to be in Secretary's hands not later than August 31st.

Lot 1: 1-7 x 10 beautiful photo Ringling Bros., Calliope in parade season 1913. One of the best! Donated by CHS John M. Brown.

Lot 2: One litho - horizontal one sheet Walter L. Main Railroad Shows, as new. Acrobatic acts and a real old time litho of this fine old circus. Worth framing for your circus room wall. Donated by CHS E. Cripps.

Lot 3: 1 - 7 x 10 photo showing Elephant line-up in parade. Old fashioned trappings and howdahs. Season 1912. Ringling Bros., A keen reminder of the old days. Donated by CHS John M. Brown.

Lot 4: 1 - 7 x 10 photo showing Front entrance, side show banners, and Midway with crowd. Season 1913. Ringling Bros., Circus. Donated by CHS John M. Brown.

Lot 5: 1 - 7 x 10 photo showing back yard scene of Buffalo Bill--Pawnee Bill Show - season 1911. One that will make your mouth water. Shows camels, wagon, Indian Tepees and covered wagon, and tent in background.

Enclosures

Besides the old time band photo enclosed to members with this issue to accompany the feature article, you will also find the following:

CHS Larry Butler was able to secure a couple of blocks of reserved seat tickets for Cole Bros., Circus, when they blew the matinee in Springfield, Ohio, on May 18th last and sent them along to us for members of CHS.

CHS Ione Stevens, Mr. Obert Miller and Mrs. Kelly Miller were good enough to give to Art Stensvad sufficient tickets for the Kelley-Miller Circus, to include one with each copy of the Bandwagon.

Thanks to all those who co-operated to make these enclosures a success.

Fine Gesture by CHS MEMBER

When the Bright Lights Exposition Shows recently played Jeannette, Penna., CHS Frank Norton solicited the co-operation of CHS Members Harry Dowman, and Leonard Quist to make a substantial donation to the CHS Bandwagon fund. Dowman sold tickets, Quist took them and Member Norton did the "talking" to draw 'em into Frank Norton's Animal Show on the Midway. The night's receipts were turned over to the Treasurer of CHS and the special fund for the purchase of a real Bandwagon was enriched to the amount of seventeen dollars. This is a very fine act on the part of all those who helped make it a success, and we extend thanks to them.

Five Shows are now (1907) in Iowa, Campbell Bros. Gentry Bros. Yankee-Robinson, Gollmar Bros., and Milbourns United.

June 15th, 1907 - William Sells bought the equipment of Lemen Bros., Circus and will open at Topeka, Kansas July 4th.

COLE DROS. CIRCUS WRECK - Friday July 27th, 1945.

We are indebted to CHS Frank Kindler for the first news of the Cole Dros., Wreck of a few days ago. Frank sent us a copy of the St. Cloud, Minn., paper of that date with picture of wrecked flats, wagons, etc., and also a letter as follows:

"Guess you look to me for data on Cole Dros., Circus wreck on July 27th at Belle Prairie 5 miles north of Little Falls and about 30 miles from Brainerd - the July 27th stand.

While showing here July 26th (St. Cloud, Minn) they had a new wheel put on one of the cars, and that is where the trouble was. The journal was burnt off completely, and the work was done at the Great Northern shops here; The first four cars were stock and elephant cars, and the next few which carried the menagerie were not touched in the wreck - but cars and wagons of the Big Show were next and all were in a heap. Only the Big Top pole wagon escaped. The Northern Pacific R.R. on which they transferred has two wreckers at the scene and it will be two days before the wreckage will be cleared away. I had an interview at the scene of the wreck with my dear friend, Capt. Wm. Curtiss and he told me all towns were cancelled also the advance car had been called in. Mr. Karl Knudson 24 hour man who made Fergus Falls, for July 28th date was recalled to Brainerd, and stopped off here enroute. It seems they have made arrangements to repair the show in Brainerd."

From information received by the Editors, since the above, it would appear that the "show has gone on" but this is not very clear at this time.

The following are from newspaper clippings in the files of Frank Norton, CHS

Buffalo Bill's Show - 1901

Altoona, Pa., June 1--The second section of the train conveying Buffalo Bill's Wild West show ran into the first section at Bellwood, seven miles east of Altoona at 2 o'clock the morning. The collision was caused by the fog.

Four coaches and two stock cars were wrecked. All the employees and trainmen escaped injury with the exception of one man who was badly injured.

Col. Cody who was in the rear section was uninjured.

Accident to a Circus Train, 1887

St. Louis, Nov. 4--As the special train conveying Robinson's circus, was leaving the Union depot here last evening for Dodge City, Kan., six of the cars left the track and were run into by a freight train. George Squares, a canvas man, was instantly killed; Tim Foley was fatally injured and ten others slightly injured. A lion, a tiger and several other animals, escaped creating a commotion in the yards. The tiger bit one man in the neck but was captured before doing further damage.

Brazil, Ind., Nov. 5--John Robinson's circus and menagerie is in hard luck, Recovering from its disaster at St. Louis Thursday, its consolidated train was again wrecked on the Vandalia line, near Cloverland, eight miles east of this place, yesterday morning. The wreck occurred at a sharp curve, the four middle coaches leaving the track and piling up in confusion. The wreck caught fire and was consumed, but the rest of the coaches, including the beasts, were saved. No lives were lost, though several persons were injured. The show was en route to Cincinnati for winter quarters. The loss sustained by the two accidents will aggregate \$200,000; covered by insurance.

W A N T E D

Newspaper ads, lithos, pictures of physical equipment, other collectors' items for Arthur, Russell, Hunt, Y-Patterson, Cronin, Daley, K-M and any other show that won't reach Illinois in '45. WANT FULL OR PARTIAL FACTUAL REPORTS ON ALL THESE SHOWS including such things as loading orders, wagon or truck lists, number seats, size tents, program, number cages, number and kinds animals or what have you? HAVE SIMILAR DATA ON COLE, BAILEY, AUSTIN, AND BELL BROS. 1945 to swap, also older data. SEND lists and descriptions of whatever you have.

FOR SALE OR TRADE

LITHOS of Cole 1944 & '45 Bailey Bros., 1945, Dailey '44 others. Window Cards (pictorials) of Cole '45 two styles of Beatty-Wallace '43, Dailey '44. Have large variety of newspaper ads, and limited number of other collector's items to swap. Have Cole, Austin and Bailey '45 photos and older ones back to '38. PHOTO LISTS ON REQUEST.

IF I PROMISED YOU ANYTHING - BUT YOU NEVER GOT IT, WRITE - and I'll make it up to you. I don't mean to overlook any deals.

WRITE NOW! DON'T DELAY! MUST complete all deals before college work begins next Fall. Then, I'll be shackles to books, a slave to professors!

BOB PARKINSON

336 N. Oak Crest

Decatur 11, Illinois, U.S.A.

FOR SALE

Early Rare (upright) Currier & Ives Print showing BARNUM'S ALBINO FAMILY - Mother, Father and two children. Nice condition - a bargain for only.....\$10.00

SHEET MUSIC - Ossian's Serenade - pub. 1850 - cover showing litho of P.T. Barnum introducing Ossian Dodge to Jenny Lind. Dodge just paid \$625.00 for concert ticket - and money is sticking out of PT's pocket. Something worth framing - rare \$3.50

Large sized felt pennant. Scarece. Riding Cowboy and title "OKLAHOMA RANCH WILD WEST" - season 1913. Worn but a real Wild West item for your circus wall. This item for\$2.00

All above for \$15.00

Send postal money order please!

I WILL CONSIDER A TRADE - WHAT HAVE YOU?

Give full details and write to:

Walter W. Tyson

27 Green Street

Guelph,

Ontario

Canada.

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 Six Barnum & Bailey, 1913, includes three parade views,
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Also 116 size pictures of 1945 Austin and Russell
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Care, Billboard, Cincinnati 1, Ohio

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 Postcard size 6 for \$1.00 - or send me \$5.00 for 40 - size 616
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 Send for list today.

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- ROLLING STONE, Fred Stone, 1945. 246 pp. 18 illus. (photos). Stone's autobiography including his early circus days. NEW 3.00
- BLACK MOON, Clark McMeekin, 1945. 238pp. A novel of circus life in the 1830's. NEW 2.75
- CIRCUS DAY, Claude Allen Lewis & Mabel Cobb, 1945. Large. About 50 illus. including 4 in color. Juvenile. NEW 1.50
- TWELVE YEARS OF TROUPING. Gainesville Community Circus 1930-41, A. Morton Smith, 1944. Small. 112pp. 19 illus. NEW 2.50
- THEY ALL HAD GLAMOUR, Edward B. Marks, 1944. 448pp. About 70 plates. Primarily on the theatre, but contains much of circus interest. (Barnum, G.L.Fox, Blondin, Adah Menken, Arthur Nelson, Whimsical Walker, others). NEW 4.00
- ESME OF PARIS, Esmé Davis, 1944. 444pp. Illustrated. An autobiography. Considerable on the circus. NEW 4.00
- CLYDE BEATTY & RUSSELL BROS. COMBINED CIRCUS. Souvenir Program & Season Route, 1944. 1.00
- THE GENTLEMAN GIANT. Biography of Robert Pershing Wadlow, Frederic Fadner, 1944. 206pp. 16 illus. (photos). NEW 2.00
- THE CIRCUS COMES TO SCHOOL. A Plan Whereby the Circus Becomes Educational & Recreational, Averil Tibbels, 1937. 242pp. 29 illus. NEW 2.50
- RANDOM NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY AMERICAN CIRCUS, R.W.G. Vail, 1934. 75pp. 7 plates. NEW 2.00
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- THE GANGS OF NEW YORK, Herbert Asbury, 1937. 400pp. 53 illus. Has an account of the burning of Barnum's Museum. NEW 2.50
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- NOAH'S CARGO, George Jennison, 1929. 260pp. 32 plates. Contains considerable on early menageries. NEW 3.50
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- MY PEOPLE THE SIOUX, Chief Standing Bear, 1928, 288pp. 24 plates. Has a chap. called "With Buffalo Bill in England". Contains 2 illus. of the BUFFALO BILL WILD WEST SHOW. NEW 4.00
- FRONTIERS OF THE NORTHWEST. A History of the Upper Missouri Valley, Harold E. Briggs, 1940. 629pp. 38 illus. 7 maps. More or less mention with pictures of Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill, Calamity Jane, Sitting Bull, others. Also mention of Bartholemew's Great Western Circus (1867), Madame Lake's Olympiad Circus (1871), Conkling Brothers' Circus (1872), Yankee Robinson, James Robinson Co., Chang, Tom Thumb, Barnum, etc. NEW 5.00

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